

REMARKS

Claims 8-17 and 19-31 are pending in the application. Claims 8, 17, 19, 24, 28 and 29 are amended with this submission. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8, 11, 16-17, AND 19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8, 11, 16-17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,099,276 (Kalkunte) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0071398 (Moran) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,233,603 (Takeuchi). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

In the response of November 30, 2010, an argument was made that the present invention was directed to a port as opposed to a link, wherein a port intimated a physical structure, while a link intimated a logical arrangement. The Advisory Action of December 10, 2010, maintained the rejection, but indicated that the submitted arguments would be effective if the claims required the ports to be physical links. Claims 8, 17, 19, 24, 28 and 29 are amended to recite the ports as physical links. Applicant references the arguments set forth in the response of November 30, 2010, and reiterates that the claims that now recite physical ports are not taught by the cited prior art. Therefore the claims are non-obvious over the cited prior art of record, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, LANP129US.

Respectfully submitted,
ESCHWEILER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

By /Thomas G. Eschweiler/
Thomas G. Eschweiler
Reg. No. 36,981

National City Bank Building
629 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1000
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 502-0600